

Introduced by Senator Lieu

February 13, 2012

An act to add Section 31113 to the Public Resources Code, relating to coastal resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1066, as introduced, Lieu. Coastal resources: climate change.

Existing law establishes the State Coastal Conservancy, which serves as a repository for coastal lands. Existing law authorizes the conservancy to, among other things, undertake projects and award grants for the purposes of restoration of areas of the coastal zone that are adversely affecting the coastal environment or are impending orderly development.

This bill would authorize the conservancy to fund and undertake projects to address climate change, giving priority to projects that maximize public benefits.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares the following:
- 2 (a) California's coastal waters, waterfronts, wetlands, harbors,
- 3 estuaries, bays, ports, marinas, riparian areas, beaches, and
- 4 agricultural resources are important environmental and economic
- 5 resources to the state.
- 6 (b) The coastal economy contributes \$46 billion dollars annually
- 7 to the State of California.
- 8 (c) Eighty percent of California's 38 million residents live within
- 9 30 miles of the coast.

1 (d) Sea level rise, combined with storm-driven waves, poses a
2 direct risk to the state's coastal resources, including public and
3 private real property and infrastructure. Rising marine waters
4 threaten sensitive coastal areas, habitats, the survival of threatened
5 and endangered species, beaches and other recreation areas, and
6 urban waterfronts.

7 (e) Commercial fisheries and fishing harbors, ports, production
8 of seafood, and related jobs will suffer adverse impacts if steps
9 are not taken to protect them.

10 (f) The desirability of natural areas, riparian areas, beaches,
11 parks, and urban areas as tourist destinations, and their concomitant
12 economic benefit to the state, depends on protection of their scenic
13 and recreational qualities.

14 (g) The economic and environmental health of human and
15 natural coastal communities depends on their resilience—their
16 ability to survive and rebound from adverse effects.

17 (h) Improving the health of coastal rivers, wetlands, beaches,
18 harbors, ports, urban waterfronts, fisheries, and agricultural
19 resources in advance of threats can contribute to their resiliency.

20 (i) Extensive cooperation between governmental and private
21 entities is needed to respond adequately to the effects of climate
22 change.

23 (j) For well over 30 years, the State Coastal Conservancy, a
24 nonregulatory agency established under Division 21 (commencing
25 with Section 31000) of the Public Resources Code, has worked
26 with public and private entities to protect, restore, and enhance
27 coastal and marine resources and habitats, has addressed
28 deteriorating urban waterfronts and poorly designed coastal
29 development, and has provided public recreation facilities and
30 access to the coast and urban waterfront areas.

31 (k) The conservancy can further contribute to the improvement
32 and management of the state's invaluable public and private coastal
33 resources, and, in so doing, lessen the degradation and destruction
34 from future effects of a changing climate on natural and built
35 resources and related jobs.

36 (l) Projects that protect coastal resources from climate change
37 impacts can provide additional valuable public benefits, including,
38 but not limited to, flood protection, improved water quality, and
39 increases in fish and wildlife for food and recreation.

1 (m) Existing law does not expressly authorize the Coastal
2 Conservancy to address climate change or its impacts, despite the
3 anticipated adverse effects on the coast.

4 (n) It is the intent of the Legislature that in implementing
5 Division 21, the conservancy have adequate authority to work with
6 local governments and private entities to address the effects of
7 climate change on coastal resources, public and private, natural
8 and built, including, but not limited to, coastal beaches, ports,
9 urban waterfronts, infrastructure, the ocean, riparian areas and
10 watersheds, fisheries, forests, wetlands, and public and private real
11 property.

12 (o) The conservancy's participation in addressing adverse effects
13 on coastal resources can help to maintain property values for
14 individuals and businesses, aid the tourist industry, and promote
15 business and jobs by facilitating the development and protection
16 of visitor-serving commercial facilities and amenities attractive to
17 skilled and educated workers.

18 (p) The conservancy's participation in addressing climate change
19 can help to produce construction and other jobs for Californians,
20 both directly, through conservation, and development activities,
21 and indirectly, through increased recreational, business, and tourist
22 use.

23 (q) The conservancy's participation can contribute to the
24 resiliency of the natural and built environments including habitat,
25 beaches, ports, and urban waterfronts, and can facilitate assisted
26 migration of plant and animal species that lack adequate ability to
27 adapt.

28 (r) To the extent that this act assists the conservancy in obtaining
29 federal and other funds, it may help reduce demand on the General
30 Fund for coastal improvement and resilience activities.

31 SEC. 2. Section 31113 is added to the Public Resources Code,
32 to read:

33 31113. In implementing this division, the conservancy may
34 fund and undertake projects to address climate change, including,
35 but not limited to, planning, adaptation, and mitigation, and may
36 award grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for
37 these purposes. The conservancy shall prioritize projects that
38 maximize public benefits.

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